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NEWS.

DR. W. NYLANDER, the Nestor of lichenologists, died in Paris on March 29, in his seventy-eighth year.

MESSRS. HAROLD LYON and W. H. Wheeler have been appointed assistants in botany in the University of Minnesota.

MR. JOHN LOUIS SHELDON has been appointed assistant in botany, to give instruction in the School of Agriculture of the University of Nebraska.

OTTO BÖCKELER, a pharmacist of Varel, Oldenburg, known for his systematic studies on the genus *Carex*, died on March 5, at the great age of 95.

MR. ALBERT T. BELL, of the University of Nebraska, will visit the Republican valley in the course of the summer, with a special view to collecting Uredineæ.

DR. RODNEY H. TRUE has resigned the assistant professorship of pharmacognosy at the University of Wisconsin. He expects to spend the next year in reading and research at Harvard University.

DR. CHARLES E. BESSEY, of the University of Nebraska, will shortly visit the foothills of western Nebraska, collecting specimens and making phytogeographical notes in the region above 1200^m altitude.

PROFESSOR DR. GUNTHER BECK, Ritter von Mannagetta, has been appointed professor of botany, and director of the botanical garden of the German University of Prag, as successor to Dr. R. von Wettstein.

PROFESSOR JOHN MACOUN will be engaged during the summer in field work upon Sable island, "the graveyard of the Atlantic." Later in the season he will examine botanically some of the remote parts of New Brunswick.

MR. JARED G. SMITH, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been transferred from the Division of Agrostology, and after June 30 will be associated with Mr. O. F. Cook in the Section of Seed and Plant Introduction of the Division of Botany.

DR. J. N. ROSE, of the U. S. National Museum, left Washington about May 1 for an absence of three months in central and southern Mexico. He will make a special study of the genus *Agave*, especially those species used in the making of pulque and mescal, and will visit the tequila plantations of western Jalisco. An investigation of the Tampico hemp industry will also be

made. Of course a general botanical collection will be secured, and a list of the type localities of several hundred species, many of which are not represented in American herbaria, will give a very definite purpose to the collecting.

DR. F. E. CLEMENTS, after giving instruction in botany in the Summer School of the University of Nebraska from June 9 to July 20, will visit the Missouri river bluff region, making a careful study of the phytogeographical regions from Florence southward.

DR. B. M. DUGGAR, instructor in botany in Cornell University and assistant cryptogamic botanist in the Experimental Station, has leave of absence for the coming year, and is already working in the laboratories for plant physiology under Dr. Pfeffer in Leipzig, and in those for experimental morphology under Dr. Klebs at Halle.

WHAT HAS BEEN heretofore the Summer School of Cornell University, being a private or individual affair managed by the instructors directly concerned, has now become a regular six-weeks term of the university. Professor George F. Atkinson has been appointed for this year to give instruction in botany, with Mr. Heinrich Hasselbring as his assistant.

AT THE MEETING of the Academy of Science of St. Louis on May 1, 1899, Mr. H. von Schrenk presented the general results of a study of certain diseases of the yellow pine, illustrating his remarks by the exhibition of a number of specimens showing the characteristic phenomena of the diseases and the fruiting bodies of the fungi which caused them.—WM. TRELEASE.

AFTER EIGHT YEARS of service, Professor D. H. Campbell has been given leave of absence for a year from Leland Stanford University. He will sail for Europe about the middle of July. After spending some time in England, he will winter about the Mediterranean, going as far east as Egypt. His journey is chiefly for recreation, although he will do some botanical work.

THERE ARE in southern California three notable collections of cacti and other plants of arid regions that should be known to students and specialists. Two of these are in San Diego, one of them forming a part of the exceedingly interesting garden of Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Brandegee, the other belonging to Mr. Charles R. Orcutt. The third collection is the property of Mr. A. H. Alverson, of San Bernardino.—V. M. SPALDING.

MR. ROBERT COMBS died April 11, at the age of twenty-seven years. He was known to botanists through the publication of his collections in the vicinity of Cienfuegos, Cuba; and through his paper on the medical plants of Cuba. He was an assistant in botany in Iowa State College and the Agricultural Experiment Station, and at the time of his death was one of the field agents of the Division of Agrostology, Department of Agriculture.

THE STATE FORESTRY STATION, near Santa Monica, California, under the charge of Mr. C. A. Colmore, has an interesting collection of Eucalyptus, about sixty species being represented. The chief object of the station is to determine by actual experiment the adaptibility of different trees and shrubs to the climatic conditions of the region in which it is located, and to disseminate information on forestry and arbor-culture. With limited means the indefatigable superintendent is carrying on a most important work and one that suggests the great desirability of the multiplication of such stations throughout the United States.—V. M. SPALDING.

MR. E. H. HARRIMAN, a prominent railroad official, wishing to visit Alaska, has invited a party of scientific men to accompany him by special train and steamer. Among the party are several botanists: Dr. William Trelease, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden; Mr. F. V. Coville, Chief of the Division of Botany of the U. S. Department of Agriculture; Prof. De Alton Saunders, of the University of South Dakota; and Mr. T. H. Kearney, of the New York Botanical Garden. Dr. B. E. Fernow, Dean of the College of Forestry, Cornell University, is also a member of the party. Mr. Saunders will give special attention to the marine algæ, Mr. Coville and Mr. Kearney to the vascular plants, and Mr. Trelease to fungi. The expedition left Chicago on May 25, and will return about August 1.

THE PACIFIC COAST LABORATORY at Santa Ana, California, established as a branch of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has accomplished within a few years a large amount of valuable work. In 1889 Mr. Newton B. Pierce was appointed a special agent to investigate the California vine disease, and, as a result of the study then undertaken, preventive measures have been recommended and so far adopted as to render recurrence of the disease, with its former wholesale destructiveness, practically impossible. Subsequently Phylloxera was discovered and stamped out in time to prevent its extensive spread, and investigations have for some time been in progress that give good promise of equally important results in the production of varieties of grapes immune to attacks of *coulure*, a disease that annually causes a loss of half a million dollars to the vineyardists of the San Joaquin valley. A large series of different sprays for the treatment of peach curl were first tested here, and methods for its control were first introduced into the different peach growing states from this station. The laboratory has an excellent equipment, including bacteriological outfit, photographic apparatus, an extensive collection of photographs illustrative of plant diseases of the Coast region, and a good working library. It has gradually grown into a bureau of information and advice for horticultural commissioners and practical horticulturists of the whole Pacific Coast.—V. M. SPALDING.